

# MINUTE OF MEETING OF LAIRDSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

**LOCATION: VIA MS TEAMS**

**DATE: TUESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2024**

**TIME: 6.00PM**

## **MATTERS ARISING / MINUTE OF LAST MEETING**

After the question was raised as to why the residential trip subsidy (for families entitled to free school meals) has never increased from £140, NR wrote to 3 local elected council members to question this. He received two replies whereby they acknowledged that whilst this was indeed the case, it seemed unlikely that there would be any change in the foreseeable future since there just isn't the budget to allow it. They said that sometimes PTA funds are used by schools to help subsidise the cost to families, but this can be a substantial drain on PTA funds. DU-H said that following the last meeting she had looked in to different grants or funds that may be available for these things and although they seemed to be limited, she would be happy to help with the completion of any applications. NR agreed that this might be helpful but it would need to be an annual undertaking.

The minute was agreed.

## **HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT**

School roll is now 316, with another three new pupils having started since our last meeting. There have been no staffing changes within the school to report.

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023/24**

No further updates on the School Improvement Plan

## **EARLY YEARS CENTRE**

The EYC roll is now 116, with 19 children in the 2-3 room and 97 children in the 3-5 room. The EYC continues to undergo staffing changes but that is just the nature of the Early Years sector. We have a new senior member of staff in the nursery.

We have a group of P5 children who will visit the nursery next week to read the children stories as part of National Storytelling Week (w/c 29<sup>th</sup> January). The rationale for choosing P5 pupils is that they will become the buddies to the new intake of children into P1 in August 2024.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> January, the Collaborative Improvement Service will be in the nursery to lead focus groups with our Early Years employees. The focus will be on literacy and they will then produce a report.

### **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT 2023/24**

Kelly Quail, our Family Learning Assistant, has started a Families Connect programme which she will deliver weekly to targeted families. She will work with one of our Senior Early Years Workers from the Early Years Centre who will then go on to deliver the same programme to targeted families within the nursery.

### **SCHOOL LIFE / PLANNED EVENTS**

P5 & P5/6 started their Clyde in the Classroom project, commencing with a trip to the Science Centre the first week back after Christmas.

We will be hosting a numeracy café on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February whereby the local authority will come in to work with parents to support them with numeracy. This will continue for 5 weeks each Friday.

We will be hosting a curriculum open evening for parents on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Parents evening will take place within the school on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March with face-to-face parent/teacher appointments.

### **EMERGING ISSUES**

Following the work on the new sports centre, double yellow lines have still not been reinstated and parking outside the school remains a safety issue. There is a road traffic order in place but this can't be enforced without the yellow lines. People continue to park on the raised section of the road which is commonly used as a crossing area and this is proving to be very unsafe.

**\*\* ACTION POINT \*\* NR has written to Thomas McMenamin again to ask the question as to when the double yellow lines will be repainted, and will chase again this week**

**\*\* ACTION POINT \*\* MG will put out a communication to parents reminding them of the parking options available to them.**

We continue to have an increasing number of families within the school who are struggling financially, and we are working hard to ensure that we are supporting them as much as possible. With the introduction of free school meals in Scotland to all P1-P5 aged children, it can be increasingly difficult to capture accurate data as many families are not officially registering for the help they are entitled to.

Local Councillor, Gillian Renwick, said that there is an excellent website called [advice.scot](http://advice.scot) which identifies what benefits people could be entitled to and can make referrals on their behalf. There are also council payments for families that are borderline and would not qualify for national benefits.

SMcE asked if the school would be able to help facilitate internet access for families struggling to get online. GR also pointed out that the libraries can help with this as they offer this service.

MG said we must consider not only the cost of the school day, but also the additional costs linked to wider school life (including trips, school clubs and social events like discos and dress down days). Whilst PTA fundraising events are essential to ensure that these children are able to enjoy experiences they might not otherwise get (eg swimming lessons, school trips, days out etc), we need to ensure they don't cause added pressure/anxiety to children and struggling families. MG proposed that the Parent Council work with the school to put together a position statement.

**\*\* ACTION POINT \*\* – MG to circulate example position statements to Parent Council members and NR will put this on the agenda for discussion at March meeting.**

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Nothing specific to report, but opened the floor to questions. DU-H asked about the gritting of pavements around the school during the frosty weather. NR reported that the council is only obliged to grit priority routes to school. Local councillor further advised that priority is given to gritting roads, not pavements, and that maps detailing the priority routes are available on the council website. Advised to check the website for priority routes and to contact the council if the route is not gritted. SMcE encouraged phonecalls to the council with any issues.

### **MEETING DATES FOR NEW SESSION**

5<sup>th</sup> March

30<sup>th</sup> April

11<sup>th</sup> June